

House Resolution 1280

By: Representatives Powell of the 29th, Lucas of the 139th, Talton of the 145th, Dean of the 59th, Porter of the 143rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Public Service Commission to maintain its current staffing structure and continue
2 the work of the adversary staff; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission is the state entity which is authorized to approve
4 or disapprove price increases in utility rates; and

5 WHEREAS, the ability of consumers to keep up with rapidly rising utility costs, and
6 particularly the costs of natural gas, is dependent on the protection by the Public Service
7 Commission from unnecessary or excessive price increases; and

8 WHEREAS, prior to making a determination as to whether to approve or disapprove a price
9 increase request from a utility company, the Public Service Commission considers
10 recommendations from "adversary" staff, which conducts independent reviews and typically
11 argues against price increases on behalf of consumers; and

12 WHEREAS, it is critical that consumers have a voice in the process and are fervently
13 represented in the face of continuing utility price increase requests; and

14 WHEREAS, the interests of consumers are best served by maintaining this adversary staff
15 to provide this much needed advocacy on behalf of Georgia consumers in the deliberations
16 made by the Public Service Commission; and

17 WHEREAS, the current staffing structure utilized by the Public Service Commission has
18 worked well for many years and no persuasive case has been made that the work of the
19 adversary staff is extraneous.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 the Public Service Commission is strongly urged to maintain its current staffing structure and
3 continue the work of the adversary staff.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
5 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Chairperson of the
6 Public Service Commission.